



HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 17-1021

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Pabon and Benavidez, Herod, Valdez, Duran, Gray, Kraft-Tharp, Salazar, Becker K., Bridges, Buckner, Coleman, Covarrubias, Danielson, Esgar, Exum, Foote, Garnett, Ginal, Hamner, Hansen, Hooton, Jackson, Kennedy, Lebsock, Lee, Lontine, McLachlan, Melton, Michaelson Jenet, Mitsch Bush, Navarro, Pettersen, Rosenthal, Singer, Weissman, Winter, Young; also SENATOR(S) Aguilar and Moreno, Garcia, Guzman, Baumgardner, Cooke, Coram, Court, Crowder, Donovan, Fenberg, Fields, Gardner, Hill, Holbert, Jahn, Jones, Kagan, Kefalas, Kerr, Lambert, Lundberg, Marble, Martinez Humenik, Merrifield, Neville T., Priola, Scott, Smallwood, Sonnenberg, Tate, Todd, Williams A., Zenzinger, Grantham.

CONCERNING RECOGNITION OF "CÉSAR CHÁVEZ DAY" AND HONORING DOLORES HUERTA.

WHEREAS, César Estrada Chávez was born on March 31, 1927, on a small farm near Yuma, Arizona, and was raised by migrant farm workers; and

WHEREAS, During the Great Depression, César Chávez's father lost his small farming business, and they, like many other families, became migrant workers. They joined some 30,000 workers who followed the crops from Arizona into southern California; and

WHEREAS, César Chávez left school after the eighth grade to labor in the fields and vineyards of the Southwest to help support his family; and

WHEREAS, In 1944, at the age of 17, César Chávez joined the Navy and served his country; and

WHEREAS, After experiencing years of discrimination and unfair working conditions, César Chávez dedicated his life to improving the plight of farm workers through struggle, sacrifice, and self-denial; and

WHEREAS, César Chávez formed his own organization in 1962, the National Farm Workers Association, which later became the United Farm Workers of America (UFW), to help farm workers like himself win equal rights and fair treatment; and

WHEREAS, When recognizing César Chávez, it is only right to recognize the accomplishments of UFW cofounder Dolores Huerta, for her work on behalf of farm workers; and

WHEREAS, Dolores Huerta brought forward a unique voice on behalf of women to ensure all workers had fair representation; and

WHEREAS, In 1965, César Chávez led a strike of California grape pickers to demand higher wages and urged all Americans to boycott table grapes as a show of support; and

WHEREAS, César Chávez believed in the principles of nonviolence practiced by Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and used tactics such as boycotts, marches, strikes, and fasts to lead a successful five-year boycott that gained millions of supporters and new members for farm labor unions across the United States; and

WHEREAS, By 1970, César Chávez and the UFW had persuaded grape growers to accept union contracts and had successfully organized almost the entire industry; and

WHEREAS, During a fast in 1972, César Chávez and Dolores Huerta coined the phrase "Sí, se puede", which in English means "Yes, it can be done", reflecting their conviction that failure happens only by giving up on nonviolent tactics; and

WHEREAS, The work of César Chávez was informed by his devout Catholic faith, and he traditionally included images of Our Lady of Guadalupe at marches and demonstrations and led supporters in praying the rosary; and

WHEREAS, In 1975, César Chávez and the UFW's efforts resulted in the California Agricultural Labor Relations Act, a groundbreaking law protecting the right of farm workers to unionize; and

WHEREAS, César Chávez tirelessly devoted himself to making all people aware of the struggles of farm workers and their need for better pay and safer working conditions; and

WHEREAS, César Chávez and the organization he cofounded with Dolores Huerta, the UFW, achieved the following:

- The first collective bargaining agreement between farm workers and growers in the continental United States; and
- The first union contracts requiring rest periods, clean drinking water, hand washing facilities, and protective clothing against pesticide exposure; and
- The first ban on pesticide spraying while workers were in the fields and the first ban on DDT and other dangerous pesticides; and
- The first and only performing pension plan for retired farm workers; and
- The first union contracts regulating safety and sanitary conditions in farm labor camps and banning discrimination in employment and sexual harassment of female workers; and
- Abolition of the use of the infamous short-handled hoe that crippled generations of farm workers; and

- Extension of state coverage under unemployment, disability, and workers' compensation to farm workers; and

WHEREAS, On April 23, 1993, César Estrada Chávez died peacefully in his sleep in San Luis, Arizona; and

WHEREAS, In 1994, President Bill Clinton posthumously awarded César Chávez the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor in the United States; and

WHEREAS, César Chávez influenced and inspired millions of Americans to seek social justice and civil rights for the poor and disenfranchised in our society; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-first General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:

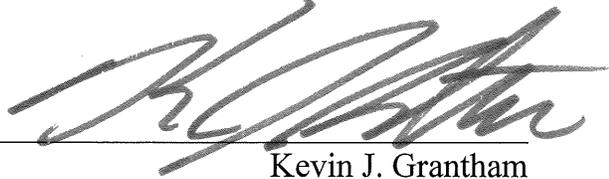
That we, the members of the General Assembly, honor a man and woman who devoted their lives to improving the working conditions, safety, and dignity of so many on the day that the entire state observes as "César Chávez Day", March 31, 2017, while recognizing Dolores Huerta.

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to State Senator Rob Hernandez, who, with State Representative Frana Mace, was the prime sponsor on Senate Joint Resolution 99-043, "Recognizing César Chávez"; State Representative Fran Coleman; State Representative Val Vigil; State Senator Polly Baca; State Senator Abel Tapia; each member of Colorado's congressional delegation; Dolores Huerta of the Dolores Huerta Foundation; the César Chávez Peace and Justice Committee, c/o Dr. Ramón Del Castillo, cofounder of the committee and Professor and Chair of the Chicana and Chicano Studies Department at Metropolitan State University of Denver; Woodbury Library in Denver; the members of the Pueblo City Council; César

Chávez Academy in Pueblo; Denver Mayor Michael Hancock; City Councilwoman Ramona Martinez; and the members of the Denver City Council, in recognition of their efforts to promote "César Chávez Day".



Crisanta Duran
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES



Kevin J. Grantham
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE



Marilyn Eddins
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES



Effie Ameen
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE